

FROM THE ARMY ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE

The Year In Review

After I was sworn into office on January 2, 2002, I stated that my goal was to deliver to the soldier the right capabilities, at the right time, at the right place, and at the right price. To accomplish this, we focused our efforts as an organization on programs, people, production, and improvement.

Last year, we concentrated on programs, and I am pleased with our success. Let me review some of our accomplishments:

- The Comanche Program was restructured and is on solid footing to become the first system fielded for the Objective Force.

- The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Army selected the Boeing Company and Science Applications International Corporation as the Lead Systems Integrator for the concept and technology development phase of the Future Combat Systems (FCS) Program. We expect to achieve a successful Milestone B decision this spring.

- The revolutionary technologies that comprised the Crusader Program, especially in software and hardware automation, were transferred to the FCS Program. The Projectile Tracking System continues in development.

- The C-130 transportable Strykers were delivered to the Stryker Brigade Combat Team just 18 months after the Army's contract go-ahead. There are a number of factors that attributed to the success of this program, including a strong, effective program manager and contractor teaming arrangement.

- Recently upgraded body armor, the Interceptor Body Armor, is saving soldiers' lives in Afghanistan.

- Our soldiers have high praise for the use of robotics in theater. Unmanned ground vehicles in Afghanistan have helped our troops successfully clear caves, bunkers, and buildings.

- The HSV-X1 Joint Venture, a large, high-speed, wave-piercing catamaran leased by the Army, demonstrated its many uses, including the ability to transport combat-ready soldiers with their equipment.



- We continued aligning our organization to accomplish our mission better, faster, and cheaper. To eliminate duplication of efforts between major Army commands, all 12 program executive officers (PEOs) now report directly to me as the Army Acquisition Executive. We have the right people in the right places with a clear chain of command.

- We are using metrics to measure the viability of our programs and to keep senior leaders informed.

- With the Army as the Executive Agent, we now have a firm contract with the manufacturer of anthrax vaccine to purchase enough vaccine for DOD through February 2004.

I am pleased to see this issue devoted to the Army Materiel Command's (AMC) successful Field Assistance in Science and Technology Activity. We continue to work closely with AMC on this and other key programs to provide our soldiers with the equipment they need to fulfill whatever mission they are called to perform.

This year, we will continue our close cooperation with other Army organizations and our sister Services, with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, with Congress, and with the Defense community. As we go forward with the Army's transformation, communication and dialogue will play a large role in our success.

From my perspective, the past year was a full and productive one. While I marked my first anniversary, it seems like I arrived yesterday. I am having fun. For this, I give thanks to my superb team in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, my PEOs and program/project/product managers, and the Army leadership—both civilian and military.

In closing, our commanders and soldiers in the field are doing a fabulous job upholding our national security interests. In 2003, let us always remember them and let us work to make their jobs easier in whatever way we can. May our successes continue.

Claude M. Bolton Jr.